



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 271

[EPA-R04-RCRA-2021-0229; FRL-10021-97-Region 4]

Georgia: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Direct final rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking direct final action on the authorization of Georgia's changes to its hazardous waste program under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). These changes were outlined in an application to the EPA and correspond to certain Federal rules promulgated between July 1, 2004, and June 30, 2020. We have determined that these changes satisfy all requirements needed for final authorization.

DATES: This rule is effective on **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS FROM DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]** without further notice, unless the EPA receives adverse comment by **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS FROM DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**. If the EPA receives adverse comment, we will publish a timely withdrawal in the *Federal Register* informing the public that the rule will not take effect.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-R04-RCRA-2021-0229, at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or removed from www.regulations.gov. The EPA may publish any comment received to its public docket. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information

whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Multimedia submissions (audio, video, etc.) must be accompanied by a written comment. The written comment is considered the official comment and should include discussion of all points you wish to make. The EPA will generally not consider comments or comment contents located outside of the primary submission (*i.e.*, on the web, cloud, or other file sharing system). For additional submission methods, the full EPA public comment policy, information about CBI or multimedia submissions, and general guidance on making effective comments, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>.

The EPA encourages electronic submittals, but if you are unable to submit electronically or need other assistance, please contact Kelly Adams, the contact listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** provision below. Please also contact Kelly Adams if you need assistance in a language other than English or if you are a person with disabilities who needs a reasonable accommodation at no cost to you.

All documents in the docket are listed in the www.regulations.gov index. Publicly available docket materials are available electronically in www.regulations.gov. For alternative access to docket materials, please contact Kelly Adams, the contact listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** provision below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kelly Adams; RCRA Programs and Cleanup Branch; Land, Chemicals and Redevelopment Division; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Atlanta Federal Center, 61 Forsyth Street, SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960; telephone number: (404) 562-8431; fax number: (404) 562-9964; e-mail address: adams.kelly@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Why is the EPA using a direct final rule?

The EPA is publishing this rule without a prior proposed rule because we view this as a noncontroversial action and anticipate no adverse comment. This action is a routine program

change. However, in the “Proposed Rules” section of today’s *Federal Register*, we are publishing a separate document that will serve as the proposed rule allowing the public an opportunity to comment. We will not institute a second comment period on this action. Any parties interested in commenting must do so at this time. For further information about commenting on this rule, see the **ADDRESSES** section of this document.

If the EPA receives adverse comment, we will publish a timely withdrawal in the *Federal Register* informing the public that this direct final rule will not take effect. We will address all public comments in a subsequent final rule and base any further decision on the authorization of the State program changes after considering all comments received during the comment period.

II. Why are revisions to state programs necessary?

States that have received final authorization from the EPA under RCRA section 3006(b), 42 U.S.C. 6926(b), must maintain a hazardous waste program that is equivalent to, consistent with, and no less stringent than the Federal program. As the Federal program changes, states must change their programs and ask the EPA to authorize the changes. Changes to state programs may be necessary when Federal or state statutory or regulatory authority is modified or when certain other changes occur. Most commonly, states must change their programs because of changes to the EPA’s regulations in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) parts 124, 260 through 268, 270, 273, and 279.

New Federal requirements and prohibitions imposed by Federal regulations that the EPA promulgates pursuant to the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 (HSWA) take effect in authorized states at the same time they take effect in unauthorized states. Thus, the EPA will implement those requirements and prohibitions in Georgia, including the issuance of new permits implementing those requirements, until the State is granted authorization to do so.

III. What decisions has the EPA made in this rule?

Georgia submitted a complete program revision application, dated January 4, 2021 and

supplemented on February 9, 2021, seeking authorization of changes to its hazardous waste program corresponding to certain Federal rules promulgated between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2020 (including RCRA Clusters¹ XV (Checklist² 206 only), XXIV (Checklist 235 only), and XXVI through XXVIII). The EPA concludes that Georgia's application to revise its authorized program meets all of the statutory and regulatory requirements established under RCRA, as set forth in RCRA section 3006(b), 42 U.S.C. 6926(b), and 40 CFR part 271. Therefore, the EPA proposes to grant Georgia final authorization to operate its hazardous waste program with the changes described in the authorization application, and as outlined below in Section VI of this document.

Georgia has responsibility for permitting treatment, storage, and disposal facilities within its borders and for carrying out the aspects of the RCRA program described in its program revision application, subject to the limitations of HSWA, as discussed above.

IV. What is the effect of this authorization decision?

The effect of this decision is that the changes described in Georgia's authorization application will become part of the authorized State hazardous waste program and will therefore be federally enforceable. Georgia will continue to have primary enforcement authority and responsibility for its State hazardous waste program. The EPA will maintain its authorities under RCRA sections 3007, 3008, 3013, and 7003, including its authority to:

- Conduct inspections, and require monitoring, tests, analyses, and reports;
- Enforce RCRA requirements, including authorized State program requirements, and suspend or revoke permits; and
- Take enforcement actions regardless of whether the State has taken its own actions.

¹ A "cluster" is a grouping of hazardous waste rules that the EPA promulgates from July 1st of one year to June 30th of the following year.

² A "checklist" is developed by the EPA for each Federal rule amending the RCRA regulations. The checklists document the changes made by each Federal rule and are presented and numbered in chronological order by date of promulgation.

This action does not impose additional requirements on the regulated community because the regulations for which the EPA is authorizing Georgia are already effective under State law and are not changed by today's action.

V. What has Georgia previously been authorized for?

Georgia initially received final authorization on August 7, 1984, effective August 21, 1984 (49 FR 31417), to implement the RCRA hazardous waste management program. The EPA granted authorization for changes to Georgia's program on the following dates: July 7, 1986, effective September 18, 1986 (51 FR 24549); July 28, 1988, effective September 26, 1988 (53 FR 28383); July 24, 1990, effective September 24, 1990 (55 FR 30000); February 12, 1991, effective April 15, 1991 (56 FR 5656); May 11, 1992, effective July 10, 1992 (57 FR 20055); November 25, 1992, effective January 25, 1993 (57 FR 55466); February 26, 1993, effective April 27, 1993 (58 FR 11539); November 16, 1993, effective January 18, 1994 (58 FR 60388); April 26, 1994, effective June 27, 1994 (59 FR 21664); May 10, 1995, effective July 10, 1995 (60 FR 24790); August 30, 1995, effective October 30, 1995 (60 FR 45069); March 7, 1996, effective May 6, 1996 (61 FR 9108); September, 18, 1998, effective November 17, 1998 (63 FR 49852); October 14, 1999, effective December 13, 1999 (64 FR 55629); November 28, 2000, effective March 30, 2001 (66 FR 8090); July 16, 2002, effective September 16, 2002 (67 FR 46600); November 19, 2002, effective January 21, 2003 (67 FR 69690); July 18, 2003, effective September 16, 2003 (68 FR 42605); January 27, 2005, effective April 20, 2005 (70 FR 12973); April 25, 2006, effective June 26, 2006 (71 FR 23864); May 2, 2013, effective July 1, 2013 (78 FR 25579); January 26, 2015, effective March 27, 2015 (80 FR 3888); and February 22, 2019 (84 FR 5603).

VI. What changes is the EPA authorizing with this action?

Georgia submitted a complete program revision application, dated January 4, 2021 and supplemented on February 9, 2021, seeking authorization of changes to its hazardous waste

management program in accordance with 40 CFR 271.21. This application included changes associated with Checklists 206, 235, and 238 through 242. The EPA has determined, subject to receipt of written comments that oppose this action, that Georgia's hazardous waste program revisions are equivalent to, consistent with, and no less stringent than the Federal program, and therefore satisfy all of the requirements necessary to qualify for final authorization. Therefore, the EPA grants final authorization to Georgia for the following program changes:

Description of Federal Requirement	<i>Federal Register</i> Date and Page	Analogous State Authority¹
Checklist 206 and 206.1, Nonwastewaters from Dyes and Pigments	70 FR 9138 2/24/05 70 FR 35032 6/16/05	391-3-11-.01(2); 391-3-11-.07(1); and 391-3-11-.16
Checklist 235, Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals from Electric Utilities	80 FR 21302 4/17/15	391-3-11-.01(2) and 391-3-11-.07(1)
Checklist 238, Confidentiality Determinations for Hazardous Waste Export and Import Documents ²	82 FR 60894 12/26/17	391-3-11-.01(2); 391-3-11-.03(4); 391-3-11-.07(1); and 391-3-11-.08(1)
Checklist 239, Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest User Fee Rule ³	83 FR 420 1/3/18	391-3-11-.01(2); 391-3-11-.08(1); 391-3-11-.09; and 391-3-11-.10(1)-(3)
Checklist 240, Safe Management of Recalled Airbags	83 FR 61552 11/30/18	391-3-11-.01(2); 391-3-11-.02(1); 391-3-11-.07(1); and 391-3-11-.08(1)
Checklist 241, Management Standards for Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals and Amendment to the P075 Listing for Nicotine	84 FR 5816 2/22/19	391-3-11-.01(2); 391-3-11-.07(1); 391-3-11-.08(1); 391-3-11-.10(1)-(2); 391-3-11-.11(1)(a); 391-3-11-.16; 391-3-11-.18; and 391-3-11-.19
Checklist 242, Universal Waste Regulations: Addition of Aerosol Cans	84 FR 67202 12/9/19	391-3-11-.01(2); 391-3-11-.02(1); 391-3-11-.07(1); 391-3-11-.10(1)-(2); 391-3-11-.11(1)(a); 391-3-11-.16; and 391-3-11-.18
Notes		
¹ The Georgia regulatory citations are from the Georgia Rules for Hazardous Waste Management, Ga. Comp. R. &		

Regs. r. 391-3-11, as amended through October 5, 2020.

² Georgia has not adopted 40 CFR 260.2(b) and is not seeking authorization for this provision.

³ Georgia has not adopted 40 CFR 260.5 and is not seeking authorization for this provision.

VII. Where are the revised State rules different than the Federal rules?

When revised state rules differ from the Federal rules in the RCRA state authorization process, the EPA determines whether the state rules are equivalent to, more stringent than, or broader in scope than the Federal program. Pursuant to RCRA section 3009, 42 U.S.C. 6929, state programs may contain requirements that are more stringent than the Federal regulations. Such more stringent requirements can be federally authorized and, once authorized, become federally enforceable. Although the statute does not prevent states from adopting regulations that are broader in scope than the Federal program, states cannot receive federal authorization for such regulations, and they are not federally enforceable.

There are no State requirements in the program revisions listed in the table above that are considered to be more stringent or broader in scope than the Federal requirements.

The EPA cannot authorize states to implement certain Federal requirements associated with the Confidentiality Determinations for Hazardous Waste Export and Import Documents Rule (Checklist 238) and the Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest User Fee Rule (Checklist 239). Georgia has adopted these requirements and appropriately preserved the EPA's authority to implement them (see Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. r. 391-3-11-.01(2)(c)).

VIII. Who handles permits after the authorization takes effect?

When final authorization takes effect, Georgia will issue permits for all the provisions for which it is authorized and will administer the permits it issues. The EPA will continue to administer any RCRA hazardous waste permits or portions of permits that the EPA issued prior to the effective date of authorization until they expire or are terminated. The EPA will not issue any new permits or new portions of permits for the provisions listed in the table above after the effective date of the final authorization. The EPA will continue to implement and issue permits

for HSWA requirements for which Georgia is not yet authorized. The EPA has the authority to enforce State-issued permits after the State is authorized.

IX. What is codification and is the EPA codifying Georgia's hazardous waste program as authorized in this rule?

Codification is the process of placing citations and references to the State's statutes and regulations that comprise the State's authorized hazardous waste program into the Code of Federal Regulations. The EPA does this by adding those citations and references to the authorized State rules in 40 CFR part 272. The EPA is not codifying the authorization of Georgia's revisions at this time. However, the EPA reserves the ability to amend 40 CFR part 272, subpart L, for the authorization of Georgia's program changes at a later date.

X. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has exempted this action from the requirements of Executive Order 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993) and 13563 (76 FR 3821, January 21, 2011). This action authorizes State requirements for the purpose of RCRA section 3006 and imposes no additional requirements beyond those imposed by State law. Therefore, this action is not subject to review by OMB. I certify that this action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 et seq.). Because this action authorizes pre-existing requirements under State law and does not impose any additional enforceable duty beyond that required by State law, it does not contain any unfunded mandate or significantly or uniquely affect small governments, as described in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531–1538). For the same reason, this action also does not significantly or uniquely affect the communities of tribal governments, as specified by Executive Order 13175 (65 FR 67249, November 9, 2000). This action will not have substantial direct effects on the states, on the relationship between the national government and the states, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government, as specified in Executive Order 13132 (64 FR 43255, August

10, 1999), because it merely authorizes State requirements as part of the State RCRA hazardous waste program without altering the relationship or the distribution of power and responsibilities established by RCRA. This action also is not subject to Executive Order 13045 (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997), because it is not economically significant and it does not make decisions based on environmental health or safety risks. This action is not subject to Executive Order 13211, “Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use” (66 FR 28355, May 22, 2001), because it is not a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866.

Under RCRA section 3006(b), the EPA grants a state’s application for authorization as long as the state meets the criteria required by RCRA. It would thus be inconsistent with applicable law for the EPA, when it reviews a state authorization application, to require the use of any particular voluntary consensus standard in place of another standard that otherwise satisfies the requirements of RCRA. Thus, the requirements of section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (15 U.S.C. 272 note) do not apply. As required by section 3 of Executive Order 12988 (61 FR 4729, February 7, 1996), in issuing this rule, the EPA has taken the necessary steps to eliminate drafting errors and ambiguity, minimize potential litigation, and provide a clear legal standard for affected conduct. The EPA has complied with Executive Order 12630 (53 FR 8859, March 15, 1988), by examining the takings implications of this action in accordance with the “Attorney General’s Supplemental Guidelines for the Evaluation of Risk and Avoidance of Unanticipated Takings” issued under the executive order. This action does not impose an information collection burden under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). “Burden” is defined at 5 CFR 1320.3(b). Executive Order 12898 (59 FR 7629, February 16, 1994), establishes Federal executive policy on environmental justice. Its main provision directs Federal agencies, to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law, to make environmental justice part of their mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse

human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the United States. Because this action authorizes pre-existing State rules which are at least equivalent to, and no less stringent than existing Federal requirements, and imposes no additional requirements beyond those imposed by State law, and there are no anticipated significant adverse human health or environmental effects, this rule is not subject to Executive Order 12898.

The Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 801 et seq., as added by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, generally provides that before a rule may take effect, the agency promulgating the rule must submit a rule report, which includes a copy of the rule, to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. The EPA will submit a report containing this document and other required information to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States prior to publication in the Federal Register. A major rule cannot take effect until 60 days after it is published in the Federal Register. This action is not a “major rule” as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2). This final action will be effective **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS FROM DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 271

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Confidential business information, Hazardous waste, Hazardous waste transportation, Intergovernmental relations, Penalties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Authority: This action is issued under the authority of sections 2002(a), 3006, and 7004(b) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6912(a), 6926, and 6974(b).

Dated: April 20, 2021.

John Blevins
Acting Regional Administrator, Region 4.